

Opening Statement
Ralph M. Hall
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is an honor to be here to serve with you on this important, bipartisan committee. As you know, some of our nation's most pressing challenges are related to the jurisdiction of this committee, and I look forward to working with you to find innovative solutions.

Our nation's future depends on the actions we take today. We have always been a country of innovators, and we must continue to foster that growth well into the future. Our businesses are the most competitive in the world, and we must continue to encourage their success. We must also prepare the next generation of Americans for the challenges of tomorrow so that we can continue to lead the world.

One of our nation's greatest challenges is energy. All of us want America to become more energy independent. To do that, we must address both short and long term solutions that build on the resources America has, and advance research and development in alternative energy resources for the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this committee to meet that challenge.

So many of the advances we enjoy today were made possible through our space exploration programs. If we are to continue to set the standard for the world to follow, we must remain committed to our space agenda. Other nations will continue to explore space, and we must ensure that we are there to protect our interests and advance our goals.

Scientific research and technological innovation created an economy unparalleled in the world. Future advancements will launch new industries, sustain economic growth, and maintain America's competitiveness in the global economy.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you and all Members of this committee to achieve these goals for all Americans.